

GHETTO LODZ (LITZMANNSTADT) 1939-1945

This significant collection was started when the collector received some postal documents of the Ghetto Litzmannstadt from a Polish friend as a gift.

Inspired by the history the collector started to study the subject. A few years later Mr. Eugen Ihle, a philatelist who lived in the Ghetto at the time and had collected all kinds of important documents from the beginning, offered him his "scientific collection". As Mr Ihle lived in Lodz, also during the Ghetto, he was interested in all philatelic and historic items from the first hour of the city on (1824). With these 120 items starting in 1824 up to 1945, he had a fundamental and comprehensive basis for his further research and collection. This collection with more than 1.200 items to the subject Ghetto Litzmannstadt is regarded as the worldwide largest of its kind.

The collection has been shown all around the world in museums under historical and scientific aspects, but never as a philatelic object. In all the years there has never been a slightest doubt about the genuineness of the items.

Important people to give information, to name a few, where not only Mr. Eugen Ihle, but also Mr Jerzy Tokar (Lodz), the expert on the stamps, Mr. Stanislaw Bulkiewicz, who collected and cataloged the bank notes and coins, Mr. Nachman Zonabend, who, as an eye-witness was imprisoned and forced to stay to the last days of the Ghetto with the labour command.

Another important informant was public prosecutor Dr. P. Mnichowski, who managed the post-war trials against members of the German ghetto administration.

The collection offers a wide range of not only historical documents, newspaper articles, geographic documents, announcements, criminal judgements, charcoal drawings but a wide range of postal historic items, started with documents of the postal administration, mail exchange with the ghetto, forms and documents of the change of the city name and german postal service administrations, as well as telegrams, parcel registration cards, money orders, mail suspension directives, Ghetto stamps, essays, proofs and complete sheets, vouchers, bank notes and cash receipts.

The frequent presence of rare material makes this collection outstanding:

there are forms of the Ghetto print office, receipts of the time before closing down the Ghetto, the original document of renaming Lods to Litzmannstadt on 11th of April 1940 with a cancellation for this special event and signatures of the district president and of the head of the Nazi district.

Further documents after closing down the Ghetto (1.5.1940), from the employment of labor, internal documents, postal communications between Ghettos or concentration camps, receipts from the first (17.7.1940 to 16.9.1940) and second (5.1.1942 to 8.5.1944) postage embargo, telegrams, package receipt cards and custom certificates , money receipts, life signs, posting receipts, money transfer receipts, records with large checking numbers, records with not accepted cancellations and combinations (end of 1941 to beginning of 1942), cancellations with additional.

Stamps

Sample I (absolute unique), sample II (very rare), sample II – new discoveries (unique copy),

Sample III – rarities, sample III – small sheet (unique copy), sample III – proof – rarities, issue IVA (unique), issue IVB – single values, blocks of four, and small sheets (higher quality), values IV – in different perforations (rarities), Mark-receipts (very rare), single pieces of Mark-receipts (rare), Mark-receipts on postcards (absolutely rare), banderols for money destruction (rarely with contents), Ghetto money-receipts in different variations as there are proofs, pilot series, different registration types, without registration number, etc. (very rare), coins in silver, copper and aluminium as well as leadcoinage in different types.

The listing of bank notes and coins by Mr. Bulkiewicz is capacious and unique.

Talons for different arrangements like lunch, baths and others (rare).

In addition to the collection there is a farewell-gift from the kitchen employees (1942) with a wooden cover and a silver plate (30 pages handwritings and drawings).